

STOP RIGHT THERE!! YEAH YOU! Washington Lawyer! FCC Commissioner! GOT YOUR ATTENTION?? GOOD!
Now let's PROCEED!

OK. I have spent a great deal of time trying to decide how to approach this issue. How to get my point across and make it stand out amongst the hundreds and maybe thousands of others you will read (or maybe you will read). This has to be a tedious and boring process for you and I do sympathise but YOU ASKED FOR IT! So here goes. Hold on to your hats, wigs, weaves, or whatever you may have covering that cranium. Here it comes!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING!!!! Pull those supposed educated heads out from where the sun don't shine and get this right! Who in their right mind, in this day and age, would require LESS EFFORT, LESS KNOWLEDGE, and LESS SKILL for any modern day communication service. Amateur radio has always been involved in pioneering communications and electronics. Today's world communications would not be anywhere near advanced without the contributions of noted Amateur Radio operators and licensees through the years. The amateur radio service is still a viable and useful service to our communities, country, and the world. Especially when under challenge such as natural disasters and national emergencies. That is when we will need competent and skillful operators that can contribute. Operators that have shown the ability to be able to meet certain standards in communication that allow them to perform the needed tasks under less than optimal conditions with less than optimal equipment if need be, and to be able to improvise on the spur of the moment!

That sometime requires operating modes that may seem antiquated to some, objectionable to others, even difficult to master for others, BUT, those modes can enable communications that NO OTHER MODES CAN EFFECTIVELY PROVIDE. The one most basic mode of communication is CW using Morse code and deciphered by the human ear. It can provide communications under the most adverse communications. And the Amateur service is OFTEN called on to operate under those difficult conditions. If this expertise and these skills are not required of the Amateur service then serious consequences can be the result.

Also, the Amateur service has always been effective in emergencies because of its autonomous nature. Thousands of self powered, independent stations, scattered across the world, that have immediate and close communications, and that are rivaled by no other system in the world. NONE. They have been noted for the ability to make things work by ----and instant innovation without the need to be hardwired into a network.

In a lot of circumstances, voice methods are not possible, often because of power constraints, propagation conditions, crowded bands conditions, or other considerations, and this dictates the use of a more efficient mode. Namely CW and Morse code. If you saw a recent Tonight Show with Jay Leno, wherein two Morse code capable amateur operators went head to head with a couple of young Text-messengers, you will have seen that the code operators passed the message a LOT faster than the text message method.

HEY!! ARE YOU STILL WITH ME THERE????? Stay ALERT!! This could be YOUR ASS IN AN EMERGENCY!! I hate to be so blunt and provocative, BUT THIS CAN BE A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH. Maybe you think that is an over-reaction. But do you want to be put in the position of telling your family in a situation of peril that nothing can be done? You can't get in touch with any one to call for help because the amateurs providing the emergency communications do not have the necessary skills when it came down to the real crisis? Look into the eyes of your family and admit that you were to blame for this situation. GO AHEAD.

HEY!! PAY ATTENTION!!! YES YOU WASHINGTON LAWYER! What do you really know about real time every day communications when it is thrown into your lap? Are you going to listen to the new breed of KNOW NOTHING WANNABEES that want something for nothing and in return you get NOTHING. OR will you take a stand for KNOWLEDGE, SKILL, AND CONTINUING EXCELLENCE in the Amateur radio service so they may be there when needed. Are you going to listen to the whiners that complain it is too hard to learn when a LOT OF 6 YEAR OLD CHILDREN have easily mastered the MORSE CODE??

Are you going to give credence to the claims that Morse code is no longer necessary because it is being superseded by new technology. JUST THINK ABOUT THAT ONE FOR A MINUTE! How often do you have computer problems? How easy are they to fix in the field? Do you want your communications disrupted because your laptop crashed? How sturdy is that laptop? Drop it ONCE! I DARE YOU! How about cellular? Oh boy is that a trap. Satellites? Solar Flares. Public safety systems? Complicated and prone to failure under extreme duress. Do you really want to place all your communication eggs in THOSE BASKETS?? IF you do, you really need to find a new profession or take up knitting. At least you can make a hat during the emergency. Because otherwise you will be just sitting there staring at your useless equipment.

BUT a simple CW transmitter can be made and operated using Morse code with the MOST BASIC DURABLE SIMPLE equipment in the field and on the fly, IF THE PERSON IS REQUIRED TO HAVE THE SKILLS TO DO SO. And it is YOUR JOB TO SEE THAT REQUIREMENT IS FULFILLED! YOURS!

How would you feel if some one out there in the world in a life and death situation was calling in Code for help and all the amateurs on the bands could not or did not copy code. Can you imagine them telling the person to go away. Stop sending that noise and bothering us because they did not understand he was begging and pleading for help. AND YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FACT THAT NONE UNDERSTOOD.

WAKE UP!!!! WE ARE TALKING IMPORTANT THINGS HERE1

Look. We all know we need to expand our communications abilities. We need to investigate, explore and instigate new technologies, and techniques for the advancement of society, the protection of that society, and our homes, families, and country. BUT just because we have the new advancements in communications and electronics does not mean we do not need to continue to be able to operate on a basic level. This is because the new technologies are involved, complicated, and require lots of support and power. All of this is NOT required by simple Morse Code communications. It is our

fallback. It is our safety net. It may be the only thing left to work under some conditions. SO GET THIS RIGHT! KEEP THESE BASIC REQUIREMENTS for Amateur radio. IT IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR A MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE SHOULD IT EVER BE NEEDED. GET IT!!! THINK ABOUT IT!!

One other little note. In the NPRM it talks about more efficient spectrum use. WHAT???? CW and Morse Code is the MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF LIMITED SPECTRUM THERE IS. IT IS NARROW BAND TECHNOLOGY AT IT BEST!! Geepers! Which of you brainiacs put that part in the NPRM??? Whoever did it, go to the corner! GO hang your head in shame . You don't have a clue! And you others, give that person a swift kick where it will do the most good, PLEASE! That type of misunderstanding of technology is inexcusable for someone in your position.

YOU MUST KEEP THE CODE TEST REQUIREMENT FOR THE AMATEUR SERVICE. ALL LICENSE CLASSES. Otherwise, a little further down in history, when the results of your actions are evaluated, your names won't be synonymous with certain profanities.

ALL RIGHT! NOW CAN YOU SEE THE LIGHT? Is it starting to shine down into your eyes? If any further information is needed I can always be contacted and will help you out. BUT I WON'T COME TO WASHINGTON!

BUT WAIT!! WE'RE NOT YET THERE FANCYPANTS! Morse code is an international language. It has been used for a long time to communicate between persons who don't speak the same common language. Code abbreviations and symbols can allow instant communications without the use of interpretive methods, ie, your computer. Oh remember, you dropped that and it does not work any more. Try and search out an interpreter during an emergency. Oh that's right. The roads are closed. The lines are down. The streets are clogged with debris and flooded. HEY WHAT ABOUT MORSE CODE! No. The FCC decided it was not needed a long time ago. We'll just have to sit here and hope someone comes along and saves us. All the other communications are out. I hope they get here soon. We don't have food or water. And old Fred over there is looking pretty ill. Sure wished someone knew how to call for help

GET THE PICTURE!! In a real EMERGENCY you need to avail yourself of ALL possible methods of communications and means of rescue. Drop the Morse Code requirements for Amateur radio and you just threw away one of your most important assets.

What do you personally want in life. Something that is common and easy to get? Or the more difficult and exclusive? You don't have to answer. You're Washington lawyers. We all know the answer. Applying that toward Amateur Radio, the Morse Code requirements do make it more difficult and somewhat more exclusive. That just makes it worth more effort to obtain a license. It brings people into the service that will put forth some effort. Have some gumption. Can learn, adapt, and perform when the chips are down instead of those who will sit down, give up, wring their hands, and cry "We are all going to DIE!!" Keep the standards in place and the results will reward us all.

As to reading some of the other comments that have been filed. Some are transparent. Others are somewhat cryptic. It is with some humor that I note that many who support removing the code

requiem have a difficult time spelling. Geez. I wonder, since code requires spelling if that may be part of them desiring to see it removed. Yep. That is what is needed. I can't spell Amateur but I am one! Others are literally frothing at the mouth with the thought of getting HF privileges. Most are residents of the current Citizen Band. If you have listened to that service when the band is propagating, well, then you know what will happen to the now orderly amateur bands when the no-code stations are allowed there. Instant chaos and noise. Oh yeah, that's a real good move! Now, Now! I know you counter with, but they have to pass the written exam. NO! What you mean is they have to memorize the written exam. Remember you did that to the Amateur service already. NO KNOWLEDGE IS NEEDED. JUST memorization! Their answers are all published and known. You really did it to ham radio with that one! Just try quizzing the average ham about electronics or communications. You blew it already with that. DON'T SCREW IT UP AGAIN. AND WORSE! As I said in the beginning "WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING??" GET A CLUE!! Don't give in to the whining, lazy masses that want to degrade the amateur service. Make'em WORK FOR IT! Make'em PUT FORTH SOME EFFORT.

How would you like it if they did the same same concerning LAW DEGREES? No need to spell to pass the BAR?

NOW STIFFEN UP! STRAIGHTEN UP YOUR BACKS. AND STAND UP FOR SOMETHING THAT IS RIGHT! And that is to retain some standards for AMATEUR RADIO. Meaning Morse Code Testing! This proposal to eliminate code testing is NOTHING BUT RADIO WELFARE!

OK. NOW BACK TO ALL THOSE OTHER DRY BORING FILED COMMENTS!

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General Raconteur (I HOPE THEY DON'T DROP SOME OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THAT!)

And I STILL won't come to Washington.